

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
PECOS DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	
)	
v.)	P-23-CR-371 (13)
)	
ERNESTO YUTZIEL ZUBIA SAENZ)	

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND RECOMMENDATION ON FELONY GUILTY
PLEA BEFORE THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

The District Court referred this matter to the magistrate judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) for administration of guilty plea and allocution under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

On the 23rd day of June, 2025, this cause came before the undersigned U.S. Magistrate Judge for Guilty Plea and Allocution of the Defendant **ERNESTO YUTZIEL ZUBIA SAENZ**¹ on Counts **THREE, FOUR** and **SIX** of the **SECOND SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT** filed herein charging him in Count THREE with a violation of Title 21 U.S.C. §§ 963, 952(a), 960(a)(1), & 960(b)(1)(G); in Count FOUR with a violation of Title 8 U.S.C. §§ 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I), (a)(1)(A)(i), & (a)(1)(B)(i); and in Count SIX with a violation of Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c) & 924(o). The Defendant signed a written consent to plead before the Magistrate Judge. The Court conducted the proceeding in the form and manner prescribed by FED. R. CRIM. P. 11, and finds:

a) That the Defendant, after consultation with counsel of record, has knowingly and voluntarily consented to the administration of the Guilty Plea and Allocution in this cause by a U.S. Magistrate Judge subject to final approval and imposition of sentence by the District Court.

b) That the Defendant and the Government have entered into a written plea agreement which has been filed and disclosed in open court pursuant to FED. R. CRIM. P. 11(c)(2).²

c) That the Defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea,³ that

¹An Interpreter was present and interpreted the proceedings for the Defendant.

²The Defendant was admonished as to the Notice of Government's Demand for Forfeiture.

³The Defendant was admonished as to punishment on Count Three of 10 years to life imprisonment, a fine not to exceed \$10,000,000.00, a minimum term of 5 years of supervised release, and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.00. The Defendant was admonished as to punishment on Count Four of up to 10 years imprisonment, a fine not to exceed \$250,000.00, a maximum term of 3 years supervised release, and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.00. The Defendant was admonished as to punishment on Count Six of up to 20 years imprisonment, a fine not to exceed \$250,000.00, a maximum term of 3 years supervised release, and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.00. **The Defendant was further admonished that the sentences for each of Counts Three, Four, and Six could be made to run consecutively.**

the Defendant is aware of the nature of the charges and the consequences of the plea,⁴ and that the plea of guilty is a knowing and voluntary plea supported by an independent basis in fact containing each of the essential elements of the offense.

IT IS THEREFORE, the recommendation of the undersigned U.S. Magistrate Judge that the District Court accept the plea agreement and the guilty plea of the Defendant, **ERNESTO YUTZIEL ZUBIA SAENZ**, and that **ERNESTO YUTZIEL ZUBIA SAENZ** be finally adjudged guilty of that offense.

The United States District Clerk shall serve a copy of this Proposed Findings of Fact and Recommendation on all parties electronically. In the event that a party has not been served by the Clerk with this Report and Recommendation electronically, pursuant to the CM/ECF procedures of this District, the Clerk is ORDERED to mail such party a copy of this Report and Recommendation by certified mail, return receipt requested. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), any party who desires to object to this report must serve and file written objections within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy unless the time period is modified by the District Court. A party filing objections must specifically identify those findings, conclusions or recommendation to which objections are being made; the District Court need not consider frivolous, conclusive or general objections. Such party shall file the objections with the Clerk of the Court and serve the objections on the Magistrate Judge and on all other parties. A party's failure to file such objections to the proposed findings, conclusions and recommendation contained in this report shall bar the party from a de novo determination by the District Court. Additionally, any failure to file written objections to the proposed findings, conclusions and recommendation contained in this report within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy shall bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings of the Magistrate Judge that are accepted or adopted by the District Court, except upon grounds of plain error or manifest injustice.

SIGNED this 23rd day of June, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Fannin", is written over a horizontal line.

DAVID B. FANNIN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

⁴The Defendant testified that he has discussed with his attorney, prior to the date of this plea, the possible adverse immigration consequences of pleading guilty to a felony offense and he wished to continue with his plea.